

A BRIEF HISTORY OF
THE NORWAY LAKE COTTAGE OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Several of the cottage owners have asked, "What does the Association do, and why should I be a member".

As this is the 10th year of the Association your executive felt it would be a good time to review what has been done, and list some of our accomplishments.

The formation meeting was held on August 5, 1973 and was attended by 67 property owners. This was followed by a second meeting on September 2, 1973 when a Constitution and By-Laws were approved.

The purposes and aims of the Association included the following:

- (a) Environmental needs.
 - 1. To fight all types of pollution of our lake
 - 2. To keep fish and game in the area. Fish restocking.
 - 3. Lake water level.
- (b) Water Safety
- (c) To provide representation at Bagot & Blythfield township Council meetings; to put forward recommendations that are of mutual benefit to all the membership - i.e. roads, garbage dump, fire protection and taxes.

In the first year of operation rumors of a trailer park and a sub-division were checked out and put to rest. Council was approached re the roads and as a result a culvert was donated by the township and a tractor drawn grader was lent to the Association. The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Environment were contacted re water quality, over population, fish and the poor state of the Norway Lake garbage site.

In 1975 a map indicating the location of all cottage owners was completed and distributed. Signs were made and installed to remind cottage owners and visitors to respect the fish, game and conservation laws for the area. The Ministry of the Environment provided information and recommendations on sewage treatment systems. Weed control in the lake and fish stocking were discussed with the Ministry of Natural Resources. Discussions were held with Township Council re control and maintenance of the dump.

1976 brought more meetings and discussions with the Ministry of Natural Resources re fish population, weed control and water quality of the lake. Collection of water samples at various locations was started in July. Copies of the Lands & Forest lake survey done in 1971 were obtained. Township Council were notified of the Association Memberships strong opposition to the proposed expanded use of the Norway Lake dump as the main township waste disposal site.

In 1977 the Norway Lake map was revised and copies given to the Renfrew Police Dept., the O.P.P. and the Reeve of the Township. More discussions were held with council re take over or maintenance of the private roads. The demands of the Ministry of Transport before they would provide any funds for the road were far beyond our reach. Bell Canada was contacted re installation of a coin operated telephone. The report from the Ministry of Natural Resources re the water sampling showed some coliform

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count in places but generally the results were quite acceptable. Pickeral stocking is only being done into lakes which have not had Pickeral before, or where they have completely disappeared. The Ministry have promised to do a fish survey in the fall of 1977. 104 Cottage owners joined the Association.

Bell Canada was again contacted in 1978 re a coin operated phone and also phones in cottages. They were not interested in installing a pay phone but informed us they would install home phones around the lake if enough owners were interested. A design for a boat decal was sent out for estimates. Following a series of break-ins on the

lake, the decal idea was suggested at the 1977 annual meeting as a means of boat identification for cottage owners. Results of the water tests were received from the Renfrew County Health Unit and again showed good quality in most areas.

In 1979 Bell Canada brought in the line and telephones were installed in about 35 cottages. As expected the telephone service has proved very beneficial for contacting the police, hospital, fire dept., automobile repair services, and has been a great comfort to retired cottagers. Boat decals were received and installed. Water tests indicated the quality was holding up. Ministry of the Environment provided information on the Self-Help water program. The big problem became the proposed Waste Disposal Site for the Township. A lawyer was retained and everything possible done to have the site changed from Norway Lake Road.

1980 saw the Ministry of the Environment in Toronto overrule the recommendations of an Environmental Hearing Board, which had supported our Association's stand, and approve the Norway Lake Disposal Site. The Association's fight came very close to being successful, and at least ensured that the dump would be operated under fairly strict guidelines. A problem of the use of the islands on the lake for overnight camping was brought to the attention of the Department of Health.

In 1981 your Association joined the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association Inc. This is a Province wide Association of over 100 Cottage Owner Associations, who collectively pressure the Provincial & Federal Governments for good laws to protect our lakes and environment. The Ministry of Natural Resources was again requested to do a fish survey that they promised to do in the fall of 1977. Again we had little success.

Last year we had a member of O.P.P. at the annual meeting to outline property protection and water safety. The Township Reeve brought us up to date on the new regulations affecting cottage lots and the Dept. of Health provided literature for sewage systems etc.

It is hoped that everyone will try to attend the annual meeting on July 10th. Bring your ideas as to how the Association can help to make Norway Lake a place where everyone likes to be and to keep it a beautiful lake to pass on to our children and grandchildren.